AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Amend the following paragraph(s):

[0022] -- Turning now to the drawing, and in particular to FIG. 1, there is shown a half-section of a release mechanism, generally designated by reference numeral 1a and defined by a symmetry axis 27. The release mechanism [[1]] 1a includes a casing 2a which is guided on a guide sleeve positioned in concentric surrounding relationship to a driveshaft 5 which connects an internal combustion engine to a gearbox. The casing 2a is formed with a radial shoulder 6 which is directed outwards and has one side intended for engagement of an actuating member 7 in the form of, e.g., a fork or rocker, whereby the actuating member 7 is connected to the clutch pedal in the footwell inside a motor vehicle via a cable or actuator. The other side of the shoulder 6 is intended for support of a release bearing, generally designated by reference numeral 3a. The release bearing 3a is configured in the form of a tapered roller bearing and includes a non-rotatable outer bearing ring 9a which is formed with an annular bottom or skirt 8 turned radially inwards and supported against the shoulder 6 of the casing 2a. Interposed between the skirt 8 and the shoulder 6 of the casing 2 is a sheet-metal holder or clip 10 which has a U-shaped configuration and embraces an end face of the skirt 8 and which has an inwardly turned flanged portion 11 on the end distal to the shoulder 6. A disk spring 12 urges the skirt 8 in forced engagement against the shoulder 6 and is disposed in a space between the

flanged portion 11 of the clip 10 and the skirt 8 of the outer bearing ring 9a. A radial annular gap 39 is defined between the clip 10 and the skirt 8 to allow a self-adjustment of the release bearing 3a with respect to the casing 2a.--.

[0023] -- The release bearing 3a further includes a revolving inner bearing ring 13a, which is made of steel. A plurality of rolling members 14 is guided between confronting raceways of the outer bearing ring 9a and the inner ring 13a and held by a cage 15. Disposed at the side of the inner ring 13a, distal to the rolling members 14, is an adjustment ring 4a, which is made of steel, for support of the inner bearing ring 13a. The adjustment ring 4a has a ring flange 16. Forced against the inner ring distal side of the ring flange 16 is one end of a spring member 17, e.g., a disk spring, or spring finger ends thereof, which is connected to a clutch mechanism, such as a separating clutch, not shown in FIG. 1. Disposed in a contact zone [[18]] 18a between the inner bearing ring 13a and the adjustment ring 4a is a sliding element 19a. In order to align or pivot the release bearing 3a in relation to the adjustment ring 4a, the directly supported components, i.e. the inner bearing ring [[13]] 13a and the adjustment ring 4a, have complementary calotte-shaped sections 20a, 21a in the contact zone 18a. In the exemplified embodiment of FIG. 1, the sliding element 19a is secured to the adjustment ring 4a and extends from the ring flange 16 across the entire length of a leg portion 22 to also form hereby a calotte-shaped section, i.e. a convex section, which is urged in forced engagement with the confronting concave surface of the inner bearing ring 13a.--.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS

1. (Currently amended) A self-adjusting release bearing in the form of a tapered rolling bearing for a separating clutch disposed between an internal combustion engine and a gearbox of a motor vehicle, said clutch release bearing comprising:

a non-rotating first bearing ring;

a revolving second bearing ring;

a plurality of rolling elements guided between the first and second bearing rings; and

an adjustment ring having a [[calotte]] cup-shaped section in a contact zone for support upon a complementary [[calotte]] cup-shaped section of one of the first and second bearing rings to thereby allow pivoting of the release bearing; and

a sliding element made of thermoplastic material and disposed in the contact zone.

2. (Original) The release bearing of claim 1, wherein the sliding element is made of PA 46 CF 30 /PTFE 5 /H.

3. (Original) The release bearing of claim 1, wherein the sliding element is made of polyamide.

4. (Original) The release bearing of claim 1, wherein the sliding element is made of polyaryletherketone (PAEK).

5. (Original) The release bearing of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic material includes an additive.

6. (Original) The release bearing of claim 5, wherein the additive includes carbon fibers.

7. (Original) The release bearing of claim 1, wherein the sliding element has a thickness in the range of 0.5 mm to 6 mm.

8. (Currently amended) The release bearing of claim 1, wherein the adjustment ring and the first bearing ring have the complementary [[calotte]] cup-shaped sections in the contact zone.

9. (Currently amended) The release bearing of claim 1, wherein the adjustment ring and the second bearing ring have the complementary [[calotte]] cup-shaped sections in the contact zone.

10. (Original) The release bearing of claim 1, wherein a member selected from the group consisting of the first bearing ring, second bearing ring and adjustment ring, is provided with a coating made of PA 46 CF 30 /PTFE 5 /H for formation of the sliding element.

11. (Original) The release bearing of claim 10, wherein the sliding element is applied on the member by an injection molding process.

12. (Original) The release bearing of claim 10, wherein the member has a support surface formed with a groove for receiving the coating.

13. (Original) The release bearing of claim 12, wherein the groove is configured as an axis-parallel or helical notch.

14. (Original) The release bearing of claim 1, wherein the sliding element is configured to embrace a member selected from the group consisting of first bearing ring, second bearing ring and adjustment ring, at least in predetermined sections.

15. (Original) The release bearing of claim 1, wherein the sliding element is connected by a glue onto the adjustment ring or the one of the first and second bearing rings.

16. (Original) The release bearing of claim 15, wherein the glue is hot-melt adhesive.

17. (Original) The release bearing of claim 1, wherein the sliding element is a separate member made of PA 46 CF 30 /PTFE 5 /H for disposition in the contact zone.

18. (Currently amended) A sliding element; comprising a body ~~for disposition~~ disposed in a clutch release bearing between an adjustment ring of steel and a bearing ring of steel ~~of a clutch release bearing~~, said ~~sliding element~~ body being made of thermoplastic material.

19. (Currently amended) The sliding element of claim 18, wherein the ~~sliding element~~ body is made of a polyamide matrix combined with embedded carbon fibers in combination with polytetrafluoroethylene.

20. (Currently amended) The sliding element of claim 18, wherein the ~~sliding element~~ body is made of polyaryletherketone.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS WITHOUT MARKINGS

IN THE DRAWING:

Fig. 1 has been amended